

ESTIMATES FOR THE PRESERVATION OF COPYRIGHT
BOOKS, AND FOR VOLUME ELEVEN OF THE STATUTES
AT LARGE.

LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

*Estimates for an appropriation for the preservation of copyright books,
and for the purchase of the eleventh volume of the Statutes at Large.*

MARCH 1, 1859.—Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 15, 1859.

SIR: I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 12th instant, containing inquiries respecting the copyright publications now in this department, which, by the 8th section of the act approved on the 5th instant, are to be transferred to the Department of the Interior.

In reply, I have to inform you that the present number of such publications, including books, maps, engravings, &c., is from thirty to forty thousand. The average number received every year for the last five years has been about fifteen hundred. They occupy three rooms, of 20 feet square each, which, however, do not afford space enough for a proper arrangement of them. I am under the impression that it would require the exclusive time of one clerk to keep the works in such a manner as seems to be contemplated by the copyright law, and to discharge other duties incident thereto. The clerk thus employed here rates as a third class clerk. No estimate for an appropriation has ever been made on this account. The clerk who has charge of the copyrights is also charged with other duties.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

Hon. JACOB THOMPSON,
Secretary of the Interior.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
February 24, 1859.

SIR: By the eighth section of the act approved the 5th instant, entitled "An act providing for keeping and distributing all public documents," it is provided "that all books, maps, charts, and other publications of every nature whatever, heretofore deposited in the Department of State according to the laws regulating copyrights, together with all the records of the Department of State in regard to the same, shall be removed to and be under the control of the Department of the Interior, which is hereby charged with all the duties connected with the same, and with all matters pertaining to copyright, in the same manner and to the same extent that the Department of State is now charged with the same; and hereafter all such publications of every nature whatever shall, under present laws and regulations, be left with and kept by him."

The Secretary of State informs me, under date of the 15th instant, as will more fully appear from the enclosed copy of his letter, "that the present number of such publications, including books, maps, engravings, &c., is from thirty to forty thousand;" that "the average number received every year for the last five years has been about fifteen hundred;" that "they occupy three rooms of twenty feet square each, which, however, do not afford space enough for a proper arrangement of them;" that it "would require the exclusive time of one clerk to keep the works in such a manner as seems to be contemplated by the copyright law, and to discharge other duties incident thereto;" that "the clerk thus employed" in the State Department "rates as a third class clerk;" but that "no estimate for an appropriation has ever been made on this account," the clerk having "charge of the copyrights" being "also charged with other duties."

To enable me to comply with the requirements of this act the following appropriation will be required:

For making cases and fitting up rooms in the Patent Office building to receive copyright books, charts, &c., and for transferring, arranging, and taking care of the same, \$3,600.

I take this occasion also to state that I have just been notified that volume 11 of Little & Brown's edition of the Statutes at Large will be ready for delivery soon after the adjournment of Congress.

As it has been usual to purchase a supply of this work for distribution, I deem it my duty to call the attention of Congress to the subject, in order that an appropriation may be made for the purchase and distribution of the 11th volume, should it be thought advisable. The sum of seven thousand dollars was appropriated for the purchase of volume 10. A similar amount is asked for volume 11.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. THOMPSON, *Secretary.*

Hon. JAMES L. ORR,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, *February 23, 1859.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, in this city, of a copy of your letter of the 19th instant, replying to a communication from my house, Little, Brown & Co., of Boston, to the Hon. Secretary of State, in relation to the appropriation necessary for the purchase of the forthcoming volume (11th) of the Statutes at Large.

I embrace the earliest moment to state, in reply to your inquiry, that the eleventh volume will number, by the best calculation, at least one thousand pages, which will make it equal in size to the average of the preceding series.

The price per volume, bound, since our first issue, has been at \$3 50, which has been uniformly paid us for our supplies to the government. As the purchase of this series of the Statutes has been provided for by regular appropriation with the issue of each new volume since 1845, I presume there is no question of the propriety or necessity of continuing the purchase in order to keep complete sets of the Statutes at Large accessible to those functionaries of the United States to whom they are distributed under the provision of the law.

I take leave, therefore, merely to refer you to the last appropriation for this purpose, on page 646 of volume 10th of the Statutes.

And have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

CHARLES C. LITTLE,
Of the firm of Little, Brown & Co.

Hon. J. THOMPSON,
Secretary of the Interior.

